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NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR HISTORIC SITES AND BUILDINGS
Quarterly Report

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## "The National Trust"

H. R. 5170, the Congressional bill to establish a National trust for the Preservation of Historic Sites in the United States, passed the House of Representatives by unanimous consent on July 6. And then, unfortunately, its progress stopped and in more than two months time it has moved no further. As the "Quarterly Report" goes to press, the Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs is preparing to discuss it at its next meeting. If it receives the unanimous approval of all Committee members, it will be placed on the unanimous consent calendar of the Senate. Should any objection be raised in Committee, hearings will be scheduled later this fall.

Behind this lies a story of loyal support and aid extended to our offices from many quarters. Mention was made last issue of the invaluable interest of Congressman J. Hardin Peterson, of Florida. To the Department of the Interior and the National Park Service belongs primary credit for preparation of the bill and careful guidance of it. Park Service was helped by the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution. Mr. Gardner Osborn, a member of the National Council and officer in the Sons of the American Revolution, spearheaded a drive to show the Congress that the proposed legislation was firmly supported. Numerous individuals, some on behalf of the societies they represent, made public their interest in the proposed National Trust. It was in response to a letter from one of these members, Mr. Erwin C. Zepp, Director of the Ohio State Archaeological and Historical Society, that Senator Joseph C. O'Mahoney, Chairman of the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, gave this encouragement: "Several members of the Committee have already indicated their support of the measure, but it has been a physical impossibility for us on the Committee as yet to reach the bill for consideration. I hope that it will be possible for us to dispose of it before adjournment and it will afford me pleasure to let the Committee know of your interest."

House Report No. 855, which accompanied H. R. 5170, summed up the findings of the Committee on Public Lands:

> Many of these historic sites and landmarks have deep meaning for the American people and are worthy of preservation and commemoration. The Federal Government, however, cannot afford to assume this responsibility for more than a limited number of places of major national importance. Unless broader support and funds from non-Federal sources are provided soon, the next few decades will almost certainly witness the irreplaceable loss of many more historical landmarks throughout the Nation, which, if saved, would provide educational and inspirational values to millions of Americans.
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> The committee considers that it is fortunate for the Nation that some 40 national, regional, and State organizations of a historical and patriotic character have come forward to sponsor the establishment of this proposed National Trust for Historic Preservation in the United States. It is the view of the committee that the patriotic undertaking contemplated by this legislation has long been needed. It is particularly important to encourage this kind of undertaking at present when so many of the values represented by our national heritage are being challenged from abroad.

Annual Meeting, October 12-14. All members of the National Council have already received invitations to the Third Annual Meeting at Williamsburg. The unusual attractiveness of the program, which combines business with the pleasure of observing at first hand the restoration activities in Colonial Williamsburg, has already yielded many early registrations. Because there are limitations to the number of rooms that could be set aside for the use of members at both the Inn and the Lodge, it is suggested that reservations be made directly to the Manager as soon as possible.

The program that has been outlined by Mr. Kenneth Chorley and his staff will emphasize features that will be of interest to everyone, whether he has been to Williamsburg before or not. On Wednesday evening, October 12, Messrs. Kendrew, Goddy, and Alexander will deal with three phases of the preservation problem: acquisition, restoration and reconstruction, and interpretation. On the following afternoon the special tours will visit only those sites where these phases can be best demonstrated - the newly-opened Magazine and Guardhouse, the Brush-Everard House, which is in the process of restoration, and the Nicholson Shop and Kings Arms Barber Shop.

At the business session on October 13th important decisions concerning the future of the Council, including the election of officers, will be made. As is already known, members of the Council and delegates and their friends will be guests of Mr. Kenneth Chorley at the Annual Dinner on the Evening of October 13th. There will be representatives from almost all sections of the country to take part in the forum on "Preservation in the United States" on the morning of October 14th.

The American Association for State and Local History, a member organization of the National Council, has just published the first number of its new quarterly magazine, American Heritage. Using more than two dozen full color plates and with articles in a popular vein by such noted authors as Carl Carmer and Allan Nevins, this is a lively and exciting production. Many Council members will want a subscription, for it proposes to interpret history in broadest terms of the full range of our culture and way of life. An article by the Council's President, U. S. Grant, 3rd, will appear in the next issue. Associate Memberships, including a subscription to American Heritage, are only $3 annually and may be secured from the Secretary, American Association for State and Local History, State House, Montpelier, Vermont.

Publicity. Not long after the publication of the fine editorial in the New York [illegible] which was quoted in part in the last "Quarterly Report", the New York [illegible] had an excellent piece in "Topics of the Times." The reporter used many [illegible] from Mr. David E. Finley's excellent speech at the last meeting of the National Council. The Times followed through on September 8th with a forceful editorial entitled "To Preserve Our Heritage." It pointed out that the material symbols of our American heritage are always in danger and that the current effort of the National Council for Historic Sites and Buildings should be widely supported. It suggested that the bill to establish the National Trust should be brought promptly out of Committee and passed,

for "These are days when, more than ever before, we need the inspiration of the past as we advance into a troubled future."

Charles Messer Stow, a Council member, referred to the National Trust in an article in his New York Sun column, "The Quarterly," in order to prove the point that this country has seen an awakening to the value of history in the last 25 years. Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt again devoted part of a column to the National Council and National Trust during the summer. She has given fine support to the national preservation movement.

The newly re-issued Interior Design and Decoration for July devoted its lead section to preservation. Its editorial was woven around the revived interest in this field and noted that the National Council for Historic Sites and Buildings "hopes to make preservation the nation's business." The pictorial-and-text section that followed dealt with the Ogden House in Fairfield, Connecticut; the Ashley House in Deerfield, Massachusetts; Philipse Castle, Tarrytown, New York; and Hammond-Harwood House, Annapolis, Maryland.

The State of Washington has set up a State Park Commission Advisory Committee on the Development of Historical Sites, to make recommendations for development. The Commission is launching a long-range program for development of the State's historic sites and hopes to spend half a million dollars in the next 8 - 10 years. A priority plan will be set up after the Committee has consulted local historical and pioneer groups.

Election of Officers. The biennial election of officers will take place at the Annual Meeting at Williamsburg. All members may not be familiar with the provisions of the Bylaws regarding elections, so a brief review is here offered.

At the last Annual Meeting, a Nominating Committee consisting of Mrs. Richard B. Wigglesworth, Dr. Luther Evans, Dr. Frederick Johnson, Dr. Thomas J. Wertenbaker, and Mr. Robert Garrett was appointed. Four weeks in advance of the Annual Meeting this Committee will offer a report to the members.

It is important to note, however, that provision is made for other nominations in the final sentence of Article VI of the Bylaws: "Nominations for officers or members of the Executive Board may be made on petition of five or more members of the Corporation provided that they are communicated to the members of the Corporation not less than two weeks in advance of the meeting in which the election is to be held."

The Antiquarian and Landmarks Society, Inc., of Connecticut, a National Council Affiliate, has published the first number of a very attractive bulletin, "The Antiquarian." It contains some excellent articles pertaining to preservation in that State. The Society will hold its Annual Meeting and Open House Day in Wethersfield on Saturday, Octo-

ber 8th. Mr. David E. Finley, Chairman of the National Council's Executive Board, will be the principal speaker.

Preservation. As the work of the National Council expands, more and more news about preservation begins to come into National Headquarters. In a "Quarterly Report" of this nature it is not possible to deal adequately with every operation. But there are two values in the listings that follow: first, they give some idea of the scope of the preservation effort today; and, second, any reader interested in a particular site may secure further information from the Executive Secretary. The listings are arbitrary and may overlap, and there may be notable omissions that have not yet been brought to the Council's attention. Readers can help by sending in any further news.

## Proposed Preservations

Leavenworth House, Syracuse, New York: The Onondage Historical Society, the Syracuse Arts and Education Council, and the Syracuse Architects Society have joined together to try to save the mid-eighteenth century Greek Revival home of General Elias W. Leavenworth. Still furnished, the home is for sale as an apartment house site.

The Lugo House, Los Angeles, California: During the summer a rather violent battle has been waged in this California city over the proposed razing of the adobe building built in 1840, scheduled for demolition in November. The individuals and societies fighting the action, among which are the Native Sons of the Golden West and the Historical Society of Southern California, envision the eventual saving of the Pico House, the Mercedes Theater, the original Masonic Temple, and other buildings on the Plaza, in addition to the Lugo House. Since the Plaza is near Union Station, they are fighting to save it as an historic approach to the modern city.

Sagamore Hill, Cove Neck, New York: The attempt to preserve the home of Theodore Roosevelt resulted in another fight, the outcome of which is not yet known. On the score that the single road in the village could not handle any traffic increase without imperiling lives, the Board of Trustees rejected an application of the Roosevelt Memorial Association for necessary zoning changes. The Association and the Board are still working to formulate an acceptable plan.

Flavel House, Clatsop County, Oregon: An editorial in the Astoria (Oregon) Budget has reminded its readers that no solution has yet been found to effectuate the preservation of Flavel House. Suggestions that it be used as a library or museum were deemed impracticable.

Old Grist Mill, Perryopolis, Pennsylvania: Perryopolis is that well-publicized town which received $1,320,000 under terms of the will of Mrs. Mary Fuller Frazier. The master plan outlining expenditure of the money for civic improvement, suggests the restoration of a grist mill, said to have been erected by George Washington.

Fort Schuyler, New York: A bill returning part of Fort Schuyler to the State of New York passed the House of Representatives in August but has not yet received Senate consideration. New York will establish a maritime school there, but the bill provides that the original buildings of the fort must be open to the public as an historic monument.

Darius Ogden Mills Mansion, California: A real estate project is being developed on 257 acres of the old Mills Estate between Millbrae and Burlingame. A 17-acre tract, on which lies the Mills Mansion, has been set aside as a park, but no decision has been made as to whether the building will be restored.

Surrender Site, Schuylerville, New York: A local group has formed to seek the establishment of a national historic site to commemorate the surrender of Burgoyne in the Revolutionary War. It has applied for recognition to the National Park Service under the terms of the Historic Sites Act of 1935.

Marion County Courthouse, Oregon: Petitions have been filed with the county court asking that the old French Renaissance courthouse, scheduled to be razed in 1950 for a new million-dollar structure, be preserved and used as a museum.

St. James Protestant Episcopal Chapel, Long Branch, New Jersey: A plea has been made to save this "Church of the Presidents," which is no longer in active congregational use. Here seven Presidents of the United States worshiped during summer vacation. Opened daily by the voluntary rector for worship and as an historic museum, the chapel is falling prey to the weather for lack of funds.

Middle Fort, Middleburg, New York: The Middleburg Chamber of Commerce has introduced plans to restore Middle Fort, scene of a Revolutionary War battle. Restoration costs would be $28,000, of which $10,000 might be expected from the State.

## Preservations in Progress

Whitewater Canal, Indiana: A feeder dam, two locks, an aqueduct, and about 14 miles of the Old Whitewater Canal from Brookville to Laurel are being restored. Work has been going on for several years and continues as money becomes available each year. Governor Henry F. Schricker recently pronounced it "one of the most important historical restorations ever attempted by our State."

Covered Bridge, Stillwater, Pennsylvania: At the request of the Columbia County Historical Society, the County commissioners have designated the covered bridge over Fishing Creek at Stillwater to be saved for historical purposes. One of the largest and oldest of the 47 in the County that are being replaced, it will be maintained by the Society.

Campo de Cahuenga, Los Angeles, California: Work has started on the building of a replica of the adobe house at Campo de Cahuenga, site of the signing of the treaty which ended the Mexican War in California on January 13, 1847. Much of the credit for the construction belongs to the California History and Landmarks Club and the San Fernando Valley Historical Society, which had appointed a special Memorial Committee.

Mt. Pleasant Yearly Meeting House and William Tecumseh Sherman Birthplace, Ohio: Special appropriations of $50,000 and $25,000 respectively were granted to the Ohio State Archaeological and Historical Society for restoration of these two houses during the biennium 1949-51.

John Brown Tannery, New Richmond, Pennsylvania: Abolitionist John Brown settled in this section of Pennsylvania in 1826 and used his farm as one of the stations of the famous "underground railway." Dr. Charles W. Olsen of Chicago, who has acquired the property, is restoring the 18-vat tannery, the walls of which still stand in good condition.

Virginia City, Nevada: The trust fund established by Mrs. Helen Marye Thomas to preserve this famous early day mining town is administered by local businessmen. After encouraging the County Board to pass an ordinance restricting all building in the historic section to conformity with the styles of 1870, they hit upon an interesting device. They are offering an "adoption" procedure by which organizations and individuals may "adopt" certain buildings for restoration under the supervision of a voluntary advisory architectural board. It is a variant of an idea used many times before, but an interesting one.

White House, Washington, D. C.: The Commission on Renovation gave a seemingly popular decision when it announced that the White House will not be razed. Work has already begun on the $5,400,000 job, to take 18 months, which will retain the traditional exterior, while the interior is being stabilized, strengthened, and restored.

Concord School, Rostraver, Pennsylvania: In 1830 the first stone education and community building in this section was constructed. Eventually it was abandoned, but in 1948 a group of civic-minded township residents decided that it should be restored and preserved. They evolved a nice community scheme, which drew into the picture the students of the Rostraver Township High School. Members of the school's vocational construction shops are doing the work under supervision, thus gaining practical experience and securing a better understanding of the past. The building will be used as a museum.

New Mexico: An Old Lincoln County Memorial Commission has been set up to supervise preservation in a wide area of the State, embracing eight counties. The Commission is working on a master plan for the town of Lincoln and will seek to stimulate and advise other towns to look after local preservations. Both the National Park Service and the National Council have encouraged this development.

Fort Ontario, New York: The State Education Department of New York has continued work on this 18th century fort. Restoration of several old gun pits and shelters around two new entrances were completed during the summer. The barracks within the Fort's walls, now used for emergency veterans' housing, will be restored to their original condition later.

Washington Inn, Waterford, Pennsylvania: The State of Pennsylvania has purchased the old Judson Homestead for conversion into a Washington Museum. It will deal largely with George Washington's stay in 1753 at old Fort Le Boeuf near Waterford.

Shelburne Museum, Vermont: Council member Mrs. J. Watson Webb, is President of the charitable and educational Shelburne Museum project. Neither a restoration nor a village, it is a collection of old buildings, selected for their beauty and interest to house antiques collected by Mr. and Mrs. Webb. Under the direction of Mr. Lewis N. Wiggins, a number of buildings, including a variety unit, a horseshoe barn, a brick school house, and a stone school, have been erected as nearly as possible in their original condition.

## Active Preservations

Menor's Ferry and Homestead, Moose, Wyoming. A dedication of these restorations took place in August. They mark a phase of the project sponsored by the Rockefeller family under which the Jackson Hole region flanking the Grand Teton range is being returned to its pioneer aspect. The ferry, 22 feet long, is a replica; the Menor Homestead serves as both ferry house and museum. A vehicle house to house historical wagons and coaches will be erected next.

Customs House, Sag Harbor, New York. A post office has been opened in the wing of this recently moved structure. Historically correct too, for the first post office on Long Island was set up here by order of the Second Congress of the United States in 1794. This is the first step in the complete restoration.

Kurtz Cabin, Boise, Idaho. This pioneer cabin, constructed in 1864, has been placed in the City Park alongside the Johnson Brother's Cabin as a memorial to the pioneers of Idaho.

Vanderbilt Estate, Centreport, New York. The 43-acre estate and marine museum of the late William K. Vanderbilt became a public park in July. Two million dollars were provided as a maintenance fund, to be administered by the county.

Harriet Beecher Stowe House, Cincinnati, Ohio. Mrs. Stowe's home when she was a resident here was dedicated as a State memorial during the summer. It was a gift of the Harriet Beecher Stowe Memorial Home Association of Cincinnati and will be administered by that Society. The house, repaired and redecorated, is dedicated to the history of the Negro in the United States and particularly in Ohio.

Williamsburg, Virginia. Colonial Williamsburg formally opened two "new" buildings to the public on July 4th - an arsenal dating from 1716 and a guardhouse from 1755. Members attending the Annual Meeting will learn about some of the problems that were incurred in these and other restorations.

Stratford, Connecticut. An unusual move was made this summer when the Lordship Community Church in Stratford decided it needed a new structure. Discovering that the cost of building was prohibitive, they secured an unused Congregational Church in Brookfield, Vermont, dismantled it and re-erected it in Connecticut. The church was built in 1845. Stood the journey just fine.

Mulford Farm, East Hampton, New York. Working from a master plan, the East Hampton Historical Society, which acquired the old farm last year, has completed the first steps in landscaping the grounds. When money is available, the farmhouse, constructed in 1683, will be restored.

Booker Washington Birthplace, Virginia. A replica of the birthplace of Booker T. Washington has been erected at Hale's Ford. Virginia's Governor Tuck and other officials paid tribute at a dedication service to the noted Negro educator.

Columbia, California. As part of the Gold Rush Celebration in July, the doors to the old Wells Fargo office were opened to the public for the first time in 35 years. Constructed in 1857 and presented to the State Park Commission in 1945, this building was the initial gift in the project to preserve and restore Columbia as a typical California gold rush town. A new basic study of this important project has recently been completed by Dr. Aubrey Neasham, who is on loan from his regular position as Regional Historian of the National Park Service in San Francisco.

Taft Museum, Cincinnati, Ohio. Restoration of the garden completes the preservation of the old Taft House, a Greek Revival structure from about 1820. It took two years to complete the restoration, which was begun two years ago under the sponsorship of the Federated Garden Clubs of Cincinnati and vicinity as a World War II memorial.

Dogan House, Manassas, Virginia. The Prince William Chamber of Commerce in August turned over to the National Park Service this historic structure, which was a focal point in the Second Battle of Manassas. National Council member Dr. Douglas Southall Freeman delivered the principal address. National Council member Thomas J. Allen, Regional Director of National Park Service, accepted the gift.

Edwards House, Sayville, New York. Restoration of the Edwards House, the community's first homestead, has been completed by the Sayville Historical Society. The home was re-opened to the public at the end of August.

Acworth, New Hampshire. As part of its 49th annual Old Home Week, this tiny Community publicly revealed for the first time that it had been working on an extensive restoration program. Although there are only 347 residents of Acworth, they have redecorated and restored two 128-year-old churches, the old cemetery, and many of the old homes that had fallen into decay. The work on this ambitious project was done under the stimulus of the Acworth Old Home Day Association.

Garst House, Greenville, Ohio. The Darke County Historical Society dedicated the 90-year-old Garst House as a museum in June. The house was a gift of the Garst family in 1946 and sufficient adjacent land was purchased by public subscription to effectuate the preservation.

> The archaeological department of the Ohio State Archaeological and Historical Society has completed exploration of an Adena type mound six miles south of Wilmington, Ohio. The work had to be done quickly because a new dam is already filling the valley where the mound lies. The remains of 18 burials were recovered and the pattern of an Adena house site, the first found and completely excavated in Ohio, was ascertained.

The Passing Parade. The toll of destruction by fire, wanton neglect, or careless disregard in the name of progress continues high. Again a headline technique will serve to show that in all sections of the country the historic heritage of Americans is too rapidly disappearing.

Saratoga, New York: GENERAL GATES HEADQUARTERS IN 1777 LEVELED BY FLAMES.

Saegertown, Pennsylvania: HISTORIC INN RAZED TO SUPPLY LUMBER FOR NEW HOUSES AND CABINS.

Sacramento, California: CAPTAIN JOHN SUTTER'S TANNERY, CITY'S OLDEST HOUSE FALLING APART FROM DISUSE.

Elizabeth, Pennsylvania: 85-YEAR-OLD MILL DESTROYED BY FIRE.

New York City: NEW YORK UNIVERSITY BEGINS CLEARING 100-YEAR-OLD HOMES ON WASHINGTON SQUARE FOR NEW LAW CENTER.

Portland, Oregon: EARLY-DAY PORTLAND LANDMARK DOOMED FOR COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT.

Chambersburg, Pennsylvania: BARN USED AS HOSPITAL IN CIVIL WAR DESTROYED BY FIRE.

Tremont, Pennsylvania: FAMOUS COVERED BRIDGE HANDED OVER TO WRECKERS.

New York City: FRENCH GOTHIC CHURCH OF ST. NICHOLAS DEMOLISHED FOR LAND RENTAL.

Washington Crossing, Pennsylvania: FLAMES THREATEN 150-YEAR-OLD BUILDING IN STATE PARK.

New York City: NATHAN HALE FRESCO DESTROYED BY WRECKING CREW.

Birdsboro, Pennsylvania: 18TH-CENTURY FARM SWALLOWED UP BY RIVER-CLEANING OPERATION.

> Persons interested in the preservation of historic buildings and other old buildings in Santa Fe, New Mexico, have selected a committee to plan and coordinate their operations. Dr. Walter W. Taylor, Jr., is chairman. A survey of structures is already under way.

Pennsylvania Report on Preservation. The Joint State Government Commission, in cooperation with a Committee of Advisors, headed by Council member Edwin O. Lewis, and the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, has published a "Catalog of Historical Buildings, Sites, and Remains in Pennsylvania." A listing of principal buildings and sites is made by counties and includes a brief description of significant pertinent events, the location, present ownership, and state of repair. It was noted that "historical landmarks and buildings worthy of preservation already have been lost for want of prompt action or of anticipating legislation which would have prevented the disposal of property of historical significance until the General Assembly could move to consider assuming responsibility for its preservation." The Commission then recommended "that legislation be passed to prohibit the destruction or sale of any of the buildings or sites designated in the following listing as being of prime historical importance, until the proposed action has been brought to the attention of the General Assembly at its regular session."

> County groups and societies in California are being urged to register historic sites and buildings through the State Chamber of Commerce. Upon application and approval the California Centennials Commission furnishes a bronze plaque, properly inscribed, on a duly registered landmark. The organizations requesting the marker are asked to construct a suitable base.

New York State Takes Action. The New York State Legislature has set up a Joint Legislative Committee to investigate historic sites, buildings, and objects owned by the State "for the purpose of determining how best to preserve such historic sites, buildings and objects for the benefit of the people of this State and the nation;

to compile information concerning existing historic sites; and to compile information concerning historic places and objects which might be or ought to be reclaimed, reconstructed and made available to the public." Findings will be reported to the Legislature on or before March 1, 1950, together with such legislative proposals as it deems necessary to make its recommendations effective.

> A committee to consider preservation and maintenance by the British Government of important houses of historical or architectural interest has been appointed by the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

Surplus Forts. The members of the National Council will recall that our organization vigorously supported legislation in Congress to make it possible to save certain surplus military and naval installations for their historical value and that temporary legislation to accomplish this was enacted two years ago.

It is gratifying to report that the principle whereby surplus Federal property of historical significance can be transferred to states or municipalities, without cost, for permanent preservation as historical monuments, has now been made a permanent part of Federal legislation which is incorporated as one of the provisions of the Federal property and Administrative Services Act of 1949, approved by the President on June 30, 1949. This means that states and municipalities that wish to preserve property which is surplus to the needs of the United States but which is of regional or state historical significance, are now in a position to make application to do so. The historical investigations required by this legislation will be made by the National Park Service of the Department of the Interior. At present that Service is conducting studies concerning the transfer of historic parts of Jefferson Barracks, Mo., Fort McDowell, Calif., and Fort Columbia, Washington, and Boise Barracks, Ida.

> The Durham-Orange Historical Society in North Carolina has recommended the proper marking of eight historic places near Durham to the Durham County Zoning Commission. The Commission was established by the General Assembly to make a study of the areas outside the city limits as a step toward adoption of a zoning plan. The Historical Society was asked to secure information concerning the historical spots for consideration in the zoning plan.

Independence National Historical Park. The House of Representatives has voted an appropriation of $500,000 to initiate the acquisition of land for the Independence National Historical Park in Philadelphia. The Senate has also approved this appropriation and has added a contract authorization for $3,935,000 in order that the project may proceed as rapidly as possible. This latter authorization, however, must pass the House before it is finally authorized. These appropriations are made to the National Park Service of the Department of the Interior, which is authorized by law to acquire and develop this great national project. It will include, in addition to Independence Hall itself, which is owned by the City of Philadelphia, Carpenters Hall, the First and Second Banks of the United States, and the Merchants Exchange, all of which are major American monuments.

George Bennett, a member of the architectural staff at Colonial Williamsburg, has perfected a method of making scale models of proposed restorations from a single piece of paper. Interested Council members will be able to see some of his work at the Annual Meeting.

National Council Backs Preservation of "Old Georgetown." The preservation of historic Georgetown in the District of Columbia was encouraged by General Grant on behalf of the National Council. In July, a bill, H. R. 5769, was introduced into the House, proposing an amendment to the Shipstead-Luce Act. It defined the section to be protected and sought to bar razing, altering, or restoration of any building in that section built before 1851 unless the changes were approved by the Fine Arts Commission.

General Grant, after noting precedents for the contemplated action in Charleston, South Carolina, and Alexandria, Virginia, suggested that there should be two modifications in the bill. He advocated that it should not be set up as an amendment to the Shipstead-Luce Act, but should stand on its own feet. He suggested too that the Commissioners of the District of Columbia should be required to obtain the recommendation of the Commission of Fine Arts before a permit to alter, raze, or restore is granted.